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Wright State NCAA Division II Great Lakes Tournament Basketball Team 1980-81

Wright State University Athletics

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Raider Profiles

#43 T.C. Johnson, guard, freshman, 6-0, 170, Sidney . . . Perhaps the quickest player on the team, he has shown steady improvement throughout the season. Even in his limited appearances, he has shown excellent scoring potential. He was the Class AAA Southwest District Player-of-the-Year as a senior at Sidney as well as a first team all-Ohio selection.

Season	G	FG	Pct.	FT	Pct.	Ast.	Rbs.	Avg.	Pts.	Avg.
1980-81	16	12-19	.632	3-6	.500	9	4	0.3	27	1.7

#40 Leon Manning, forward-center, senior, 6-6, 205, Indianapolis, Indiana (Northwest) . . . Known as the "Bull" because of his aggressive play under the basket. Scores many points with a wide variety of shots near the basket. A strong rebounder and good defensive player inside. He scored 10 points against Northern Kentucky, but his 18 against St. Joe's last year is his top effort.

Season	G	FG	Pct.	FT	Pct.	Ast.	Rbs.	Avg.	Pts.	Avg.
1979-80	26	78-134	.582	25-51	.490	23	111	4.3	181	7.0
1980-81	25	36-61	.590	20-30	.667	14	69	2.8	92	3.7
Career	51	114-195	.585	45-81	.556	37	180	3.5	273	5.4

#20 Keith Miller, guard, senior, 6-2, 180, Louisville, Kentucky (Iroquois) . . . Has started all but one game this season at the second guard position. While he is not shooting as well as last year, he is scoring slightly better as the season progresses. His shooting percentage dropped below 50 percent in the final weeks of the season. A good rebounder for a guard, he takes the ball inside well for a guard and is one of the best free-throw shooters on the team. He scored 14 points in a key victory over Bowling Green.

Season	G	FG	Pct.	FT	Pct.	Ast.	Rbs.	Avg.	Pts.	Avg.
1979-80	26	46-93	.495	37-52	.712	32	41	1.6	129	5.0
1980-81	27	58-133	.436	42-49	.857	80	59	2.2	158	5.9
Career	53	104-226	.460	79-101	.782	112	100	1.9	287	5.4

#35 Steve Purcell, forward, freshman, 6-4, 180, Kokomo, Indiana . . . One of the more promising freshmen, Steve has steadily increased his playing time throughout the season. He is an outstanding leaper who positions well for rebounding. He also is a good ball handler around the perimeter. He increased his scoring late in the season, including 14 points against Siena Heights and 15 against Spring Arbor.

Season	G	FG	Pct.	FT	Pct.	Ast.	Rbs.	Avg.	Pts.	Avg.
1980-81	27	50-90	.556	27-38	.711	27	73	2.7	127	4.7

#22 Barry Turner, guard, freshman, 6-0, 185, Wilmington . . . One of the stronger players on the team. Coming back after knee surgery last year, Barry has played in only eight games. He takes the ball to the basket well.

Season	G	FG	Pct.	FT	Pct.	Ast.	Rbs.	Avg.	Pts.	Avg.
1980-81	9	4-18	.222	2-2	1.000	2	12	1.3	10	1.1

#44 Roman Welch, forward, senior, 6-6, 205, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida (S. Plantation) . . . Will finish his career as the second leading average scorer behind Rodney Benson. After leading the team in scoring (17.9) and rebounding (8.3) last year, he was named to *Basketball Weekly's* third team all-America Division II squad. His offensive output has fallen slightly this season, but his defense and passing have improved. He has nearly doubled his assist output of last year, but his shooting percentage is below 50 percent after his 55.0 percent last season. Games like Miami (28 points) and Indiana Central (26 points) show his potential to score points quickly. A strong inside player.

Season	G	FG	Pct.	FT	Pct.	Ast.	Rbs.	Avg.	Pts.	Avg.
1979-80	27	215-384	.550	54-97	.557	48	225	8.3	484	17.9
1980-81	26	181-381	.475	44-75	.587	66	175	6.7	406	15.6
Career	53	396-765	.518	98-172	.570	114	400	7.5	890	16.8

#32 Mike Zimmerman, guard, senior, 6-1, 170, Kettering (Alter) . . . The best defensive guard on the team, his efforts were rewarded with his first start in four years at Kentucky Wesleyan. His 10 points against St. Joe's and 9 against Siena Heights were his best. A crowd pleaser at home when he connects on long-range shots, his best attributes are defense and passing.

Season	G	FG	Pct.	FT	Pct.	Ast.	Rbs.	Avg.	Pts.	Avg.
1977-78	23	24-60	.400	22-35	.629	49	24	1.0	70	3.0
1978-79	28	46-115	.400	13-25	.520	32	37	1.3	105	3.8
1979-80	21	31-75	.413	10-24	.417	31	23	1.1	72	3.4
1980-81	26	28-71	.394	15-26	.577	46	40	1.5	71	2.7
Career	98	129-321	.402	60-110	.545	158	124	1.3	318	3.2

Barbour	8	0	0	1	8	4	-	4	7	-	1	-	-	1	5	1	4	0	-	0	0	2	2	-	6	-	0
	19	15	27	17	21	19	22	22	-	30	16	29	36	20	18	23	11	17	22	19	28	26	12	20	18	27	31
Benson	14	4	6	4	8	6	8	8	12	4	4	6	8	6	6	2	2	4	1	4	2	-	6	4	10	4	4
Bragg	14	6	10	15	10	14	15	10	16	11	22	4	8	9	19	7	14	18	4	13	10	12	4	2	10	6	14
Crowe	6	0	0	2	8	0	-	0	0	-	2	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	0	6	-	2	-	0
Grote	8	21	8	14	12	12	11	15	10	7	4	8	2	10	12	12	17	12	16	12	7	12	14	13	6	10	11
Hartings	4	0	0	2	6	-	-	-	0	-	2	-	0	0	-	0	2	3	-	-	-	0	2	-	4	-	2
Johnson	2	2	-	-	3	3	0	3	7	2	7	2	8	8	0	7	6	10	2	0	1	0	8	2	5	0	4
Manning	6	8	14	8	6	10	6	2	10	2	9	2	4	13	10	6	8	2	10	5	4	0	4	2	2	2	3
Miller	7	6	2	2	7	1	2	2	15	0	4	2	3	2	0	5	7	5	2	2	8	4	4	14	15	2	4
Purcell	2	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	
Turner	10	28	14	13	21	14	12	13	-	12	14	19	9	17	14	14	24	14	6	8	15	18	26	20	17	14	20
Welch	2	2	0	2	4	2	0	2	4	0	2	-	2	2	0	2	10	6	3	0	2	4	4	4	0	4	3
Zimmerman	2	2	0	2	4	2	0	2	4	0	2	-	2	2	0	2	10	6	3	0	2	4	4	4	0	4	3

Opponent	Score	Field Goals	Free Throws	Rebounds
Wilberforce (H)	W (111-72)	474 (47-99)	708 (17-24)	52
Miami (H)	W (92-84)	543 (38-70)	696 (16-23)	36
Bowling Green (H)	W (81-68)	500 (36-72)	600 (9-15)	42
Wayne State (H)	W (86-65)	468 (37-79)	750 (12-16)	54
St. Leo (A)	W (124-77)	625 (55-88)	778 (14-18)	40
Bellarmine (A)	W (85-76)	584 (38-65)	750 (9-12)	32
District of Columbia (H)	W (76-63)	446 (33-74)	667 (10-15)	31
Eastern Illinois (H)	W (81-73)	397 (25-63)	816 (31-38)	40
IUPUI (H)	W (81-61)	493 (34-69)	722 (13-18)	43
Indiana Central (A)	W (68-61)	462 (30-65)	615 (8-13)	39
Marian (H)	W (87-67)	609 (39-64)	529 (9-17)	40
Central State (UD)	W (72-58)	467 (29-62)	700 (14-20)	40
St. Joseph's (A)	L (80-87)	463 (32-69)	761 (16-21)	35
Northern Kentucky (H)	W (90-76)	535 (38-71)	737 (14-19)	34
Bellarmine (H)	L (84-87)	536 (37-69)	714 (10-14)	27
SIU-Edwardsville (H)	W (81-65)	478 (34-71)	565 (13-23)	49
St. Joseph's (H)	W (107-79)	590 (49-83)	474 (9-19)	41
Northern Kentucky (A)	W (91-60)	600 (36-60)	826 (19-23)	49
Youngstown State (A)	W (66-59)	509 (30-59)	750 (6-8)	27
Eastern Illinois (A)	L (63-72)	385 (25-65)	683 (13-19)	25
Central State (UD)	W (77-62)	492 (31-63)	652 (15-23)	41
Kentucky Wesleyan (A)	W (78-60)	693 (34-49)	833 (10-12)	22
Indiana Central (H)	W (92-57)	554 (41-74)	769 (10-13)	40
Siena Heights (H)	W (86-74)	428 (33-77)	714 (20-28)	49
Spring Arbor (H)	W (101-62)	519 (42-81)	809 (17-21)	56
New York Tech (H)	W (69-61)	426 (29-68)	846 (11-13)	41
Kentucky Wesleyan (H)	W (96-76)	551 (38-69)	714 (20-28)	38

Raider Coaches



Left to right: Bob Grote, Ralph Underhill, Jim Brown

Leading Wright State to its third straight NCAA tournament is head coach Ralph Underhill and his assistants, Jim Brown and Bob Grote. Underhill is in his third year at the helm after spending six years as an assistant at Tennessee-Chattanooga.

Underhill was instrumental in leading UT-Chattanooga to the NCAA Division II national championship in 1976-77 with a 23-5 record. That came on the heels of a runnerup team in 1975-76 which finished with a 23-9 record.

A graduate of Tennessee Tech and Western Kentucky, Ralph spent one year as the head coach at Louisville Manual High School after a highly-successful stint as head coach at Ohio County High School in Kentucky.

While at Ohio County, Underhill led the team to a 126-30 record from 1965-71 and finished as the state runnerup in 1968-69. His team at Manual High School finished with a 24-6 record and advanced to the state tournament.

A member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes since his days at Tennessee Tech, Underhill has earned numerous coaching honors since his first job in 1965. He was the Western Kentucky High School Coach of the Year in 1969 and the Louisville Quarterback Club High School Coach of the Year in 1972.

Wright State is making its third straight trip to the NCAA tournament under the tutelage of Underhill. The Raiders have rolled off three straight 20-victory seasons and have been among the top-ranked teams in Division II, including the No. 1 spot most of this season. In WSU's last two tourney appearances, it has placed second and third in the Great Lakes Regional.

Assisting Underhill in his third year at Wright State is associate coach Jim Brown who is starting his eighth year at Wright State. A graduate of the University of Dayton, Brown came to Wright State in 1970 after a tour of duty in the Army. Among the duties assigned to Brown this season is the coordination of academic standing of the varsity players and coordinating the recruiting for the staff.

Joining Wright State as a full-time coach this year is former WSU all-American Bob Grote. The Cincinnati-native is currently a member of the New York Mets organization in professional baseball. While at Wright State, Grote lettered four times each in basketball and baseball and finished his career as the second all-time leading scorer.

1980-81

Wright State University
NCAA Division II
Tournament Team

Media Guide



Wright State all-America candidate Rodney Benson leads Wright State to the NCAA tournament



Location: Dayton, Ohio (city population, 186,272; metropolitan area population, 895,489)
Enrollment: 15,589
Founded: 1964; independent university status, 1967
Conference: NCAA Division II, independent
Field House: Physical Education Building, capacity, 2500
School Colors: Hunter Green and Gold
Nickname: Raiders

Top-ranked Raiders Head Into NCAA

Wright State had the unusual distinction of being ranked No. 1 in the first and final NCAA Division II poll. Coach Ralph Underhill is taking his Raider team to the NCAA Division II tournament for the third straight season.

A veteran team of five starting seniors led Wright State to victories in the opening 12 games and the No. 1 ranking in the first NCAA poll in January. Included in those victories were wins over Division I Miami and Bowling Green along with Division II District of Columbia, ranked No. 3 in the pre-season by *Street & Smith*.

Starting with a 27-point performance against Bowling Green, senior Rodney Benson showed that he would be one of the premier forwards in Division II basketball. In the previous 11 seasons of Wright State basketball, not one player had ever scored better than 20 points per game. The wiry 6-6 left-hander with the soft outside touch set many records with his 21.7 scoring average.

"I have seen plenty of Division II all-Americans and Rodney should be a first team player," said Underhill. "We are not a team which looks to one player to score, but Rodney just had a fantastic season. The way he moves without the ball along the baseline, he's almost impossible to shutoff for an entire game."

Just some of the records that Benson already has set include most points in one season (565), most field goals (245), best scoring average (21.7), best career scoring average (18.9), and the first player to score 1,000 points in two seasons (1,001). He finished the season leading the team in scoring, rebounding (8.1), field goal percentage (60.6), and blocked shots (36). This was accomplished in spite of playing less than 30 minutes per game. He has scored in double figures in 40 straight games.

The other high-scoring part of the forward duo is Roman Welch who led WSU in scoring and rebounding last year, but fell to 15.6 points and 6.7 rebounds per game this season. His current career scoring average of 16.8 will rank him second only to Benson. Welch was a third team Division II all-America selection by *Basketball Weekly* last year.

One of the more improved players in the scoring column this year has been senior center Steve Hartings with an 11.0 average. His outside shooting touch has helped keep pressure off the inside play of Benson and Welch. In addition, Hartings finished second in assists with 77.

The backcourt play has been steadied for four years by Eddie Crowe who is nearing 1,100 points for his career. Crowe's field goal percentage of 55.0 is second-best among the starters. His running mate in the backcourt is Keith Miller who finished with a 5.9 scoring average, but slumped in the final 10 games of the season. Senior Jeff Bragg split playing time with Miller and averaged 5.7 points per game. Defensive specialist in the backcourt is Mike Zimmerman who averaged nearly 13 minutes per game.

The full-court pressure game of Underhill requires a team with strong bench play and that was no exception this season. In addition to the players already mentioned, Leon Manning was a backup in the middle and freshman Steve Purcell progressed rapidly throughout the season at forward. His 127 points are the most for a freshman since Eddie Crowe scored 225 in 1977-78. Freshmen Theron Barbour, Mike Grote, and T.C. Johnson have seen enough action to letter.

"I think this team is taking more momentum into the tournament than last year's," explained Underhill. "We just sort of floated into the tournament last year and got nailed in the first game. It would really mean something to finish the season at No. 1 in the poll along with a championship, but it's a tough road and it will take a little luck. This is one of the best regions in the country and winning on the road will be a tough assignment."

Wright State University Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Class	Hometown (High School)
33	Theron Barbour	C-F	6-2	204	18	Fr.	Louisville, Ky.
24	Rodney Benson*	F	6-6	195	21	Sr.	Louisville, Ky.
25	Jeff Bragg***	F-G	6-5	180	21	Sr.	Marion, Ind.
34	Eddie Crowe***	G	6-1	170	21	Sr.	Carlisle
30	Mike Grote	G	6-1	175	18	Fr.	Cincinnati
42	Steve Hartings***	C	6-8	205	23	Sr.	Maria Stein
43	T.C. Johnson	G	6-0	170	19	Fr.	Sidney
40	Leon Manning*	F-C	6-6	208	22	Sr.	Indianapolis, Ind.
20	Keith Miller*	G	6-2	180	21	Sr.	Louisville, Ky.
35	Steve Purcell	F	6-4	180	19	Fr.	Kokomo, Ind.
22	Barry Turner	G	6-0	185	19	Fr.	Wilmington
44	Roman Welch*	F	6-6	205	22	Sr.	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
32	Mike Zimmerman***	G	6-1	170	22	Sr.	Kettering

*denotes number of letters won

1980-81 Raider Statistics

Player	G	FG	FGA	Pct.	FT	FTA	Pct.	Reb.	Avg.	PF-D	Ast.	Pts.	Avg.
Benson	26	245*	404	.606	75	99	.758	210	8.1	66-3	51	565*	21.7
Welch	26	181	381	.475	44	75	.587	175	6.7	61-0	66	406	15.6
Crowe	27	126	229	.550	45	63	.714	69	2.6	27-0	112	297	11.0
Hartings	27	130	273	.476	36	56	.643	164	6.1	76-3	77	296	11.0
Miller	27	58	133	.436	42	49	.857	59	2.2	55-0	80	158	5.9
Bragg	26	59	121	.488	29	31	.935	40	1.5	37-0	51	147	5.7
Purcell	27	50	90	.556	27	38	.711	73	2.7	47-1	27	127	4.7
Holzapfel	4	9	19	.474	0	0	0	8	2.0	1-0	0	18	4.5
Manning	25	36	61	.590	20	30	.667	69	2.8	31-1	14	92	3.7
Zimmerman	26	28	71	.394	15	26	.577	40	1.5	34-0	46	71	2.7
Barbour	20	20	55	.364	14	22	.636	46	2.3	17-1	12	54	2.7
Grote	15	10	17	.588	10	13	.769	10	0.7	9-0	10	30	2.0
Johnson	16	12	19	.632	3	6	.500	4	0.3	6-0	9	27	1.7
Benninger	5	2	8	.250	3	3	1.000	12	2.4	6-0	1	7	1.4
Turner	9	4	18	.222	2	2	1.000	12	1.3	6-0	2	10	1.1
Wright State	27	970	1899	.511	365	513	.712	1059	39.2	480-9	557*	2305	85.4
Opponents	27	785	1717	.457	292	443	.659	954	35.3	517-18	382	1862	69.0

*school record

Raider Profiles

#33 Theron Barbour, center, freshman, 6-8, 204, Louisville, Kentucky (Atherton) . . . A promising newcomer who has shown potential as a strong rebounder. One of his best games was an 11-rebound effort against Spring Arbor late in the season. Was third on team with eight blocked shots despite limited playing time.

Season	G	FG	Pct.	FT	Pct.	Ast.	Rbs.	Avg.	Pts.	Avg.
1980-81	20	20-55	.364	14-22	.636	12	46	2.3	54	2.7

#24 Rodney Benson, forward, senior, 6-6, 195, Louisville, Kentucky (Iroquois) . . . A strong candidate to become Wright State's initial first team all-American. Already holds single-season records for most points, most field goals, best scoring average, and most blocked shots. Going into the tournament, he has scored in double figures 40 straight times. In addition to the records he has set, Benson leads the team in scoring, rebounding, field goal percentage, and blocked shots. One of the more colorful players on the team, he has bettered 30 points twice during the season with 36 against St. Joe's as his top effort. A very smooth lefthander with a soft shooting touch.

Season	G	FG	Pct.	FT	Pct.	Ast.	Rbs.	Avg.	Pts.	Avg.
1979-80	28	176-320	.550	84-120	.700	37	180	6.4	436	15.6
1980-81	25	245-404	.606	75-99	.758	50	210	8.1	565	21.7
Career	53	421-724	.581	159-219	.726	87	390	7.4	1001	18.9

#25 Jeff Bragg, forward-guard, senior, 6-5, 180, Marion, Indiana . . . Has played primarily at second guard position along with Keith Miller. The best free-throw shooter on the team, Jeff is excellent against zone defenses with his outside shooting. He already has scored his most points in one season and netted double figures three times. A shooting slump in mid-season kept his field goal percentage just under 50 percent for the season.

Season	G	FG	Pct.	FT	Pct.	Ast.	Rbs.	Avg.	Pts.	Avg.
1977-78	23	14-35	.400	11-15	.733	9	22	1.0	39	1.7
1978-79	23	53-99	.535	24-35	.686	21	58	2.3	130	5.7
1979-80	27	49-98	.500	25-29	.862	36	48	1.8	123	4.6
1980-81	26	59-121	.488	29-31	.935	51	40	1.5	147	5.7
Career	99	175-353	.496	89-110	.809	117	168	1.7	439	4.4

#34 Eddie Crowe, guard, senior, 6-1, 170, Carlisle . . . A four-year starter as the point guard for the Raiders. He holds the career record for assists and is No. 6 on the all-time scoring list and probably will take over the No. 5 spot ahead of Bill Fogt with 1,105 points. One of the better outside shooters on the team, he had his best year shooting from the field. His top scoring effort this year was 22 points against Marian when he scored on 10 of 12 field goal tries. One of the more consistent performers on the team.

Season	G	FG	Pct.	FT	Pct.	Ast.	Rbs.	Avg.	Pts.	Avg.
1977-78	27	96-190	.505	33-47	.702	120	57	2.1	225	8.3
1978-79	25	118-246	.480	81-98	.826	109	67	2.7	317	12.7
1979-80	26	95-195	.487	65-83	.783	92	68	2.6	255	9.8
1980-81	27	126-229	.550	45-63	.714	112	69	2.6	297	11.0
Career	105	435-860	.506	224-291	.770	433	261	2.5	1094	10.4

#30 Mike Grote, guard, freshman, 6-1, 175, Cincinnati (Elder) . . . Younger brother of Raider assistant coach Bob Grote, he has shown the potential to be an excellent point guard even with his limited playing time. A good shooter with good quickness and aggressiveness.

Season	G	FG	Pct.	FT	Pct.	Ast.	Rbs.	Avg.	Pts.	Avg.
1980-81	15	10-17	.588	10-13	.769	10	10	0.7	30	2.0

#42 Steve Hartings, center, senior, 6-8, 205, Maria Stein (Marion Local) . . . Aggressive player with good outside shooting touch. Averaged in double figures for the first time and had his best rebounding average. His 21 points against Miami and 17 against St. Joe's were his best scoring outputs. He pulled down 12 rebounds on three occasions, including Bowling Green. Went through a shooting slump in early January, but has shot well late in the season.

Season	G	FG	Pct.	FT	Pct.	Ast.	Rbs.	Avg.	Pts.	Avg.
1977-78	24	65-153	.425	27-48	.563	24	128	5.3	158	6.5
1978-79	26	87-173	.503	51-77	.662	28	119	4.6	225	8.7
1979-80	28	112-233	.481	53-74	.716	71	169	6.0	277	9.9
1980-81	27	130-273	.476	36-56	.643	77	164	6.1	296	11.0
Career	105	394-832	.473	167-255	.655	200	580	5.5	955	9.1